

## VETERINARY FIRST AID 1

### AIDE MEMOIRE (a memorandum or summary of the items of an agreement, etc.)

First aid is the immediate treatment of injured animals or those suffering from sudden illness

#### Aims & Rules of First Aid

##### Three Aims:

1. Preserve Life
2. Prevent Suffering
3. Prevent the situation deteriorating

##### Three Rules

1. Don't Panic
2. Maintain Airway
3. Control Bleeding

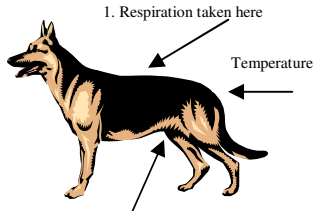
#### Vital Signs

Respiration	18 – 30 cycles
Pulse	60 – 100 beats
Temperature	101F – 102F (38.3 – 38.7 c)

**ALL TAKEN FOR ONE MINUTE**

1. Count the rise and fall of the chest.
2. Taken from inside the legs from the Femoral artery, which runs alongside the femur on both hind limbs.
3. Restrain your dog, shake thermometer if required, lubricate & gently insert into rectum & direct slight up as to avoid faeces.

**(Vital signs are taken in this order as to minimise stress to the animal)**



2. In between the hind legs

#### COMMON AILMENTS

##### EMERGENCY TREATMENT ORDER

##### A.C.R.A.S.H.P.L.A.N.

- A Airway
- C Cardiovascular
- R Respiratory
- A Abdomen
- S Spine
- H Head
- P Pelvis
- L Limbs
- A Arteries
- N Nerves

##### CLASSIFICATION POSSIBLE INJURIES

##### C.A.L.I.P.A.

- C Contusion (bruise)
- A Abrasion (graze)
- L Laceration (tear)
- I Incision (clean cut)
- P Puncture (hole in skin)
- A Avulsion (complete removal of flesh)

## IMMEDIATE ACTION DRILLS 2

A. C. R. A. S. H. P. L. A. N.	C. A. L. P. A.
<p><b><u>AIRWAYS:</u></b> Examine mouth – remove obstruction. (If possible) Remove fluid from mouth or nose.</p> <p><b><u>MAINTAIN AIRWAY:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The mouth must be kept open, use something small, round preferable hollow to allow the dog to breath easier. (<b>NOT FINGERS</b>)</li> <li>❖ Extend head and neck &amp; pull tongue slightly forward.</li> <li>❖ Keep head low.</li> <li>❖ Monitor Respiration's &amp; Pulse.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE IMMEDIATELY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>CARDIOVASCULAR:</u></b> Clinical signs of Cardiopulmonary arrest are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Respiratory arrest.</li> <li>❖ Sudden loss of consciousness.</li> <li>❖ Absence of pulse or very weak.</li> <li>❖ Pupils will be fixed and dilated.</li> <li>❖ Mucous membranes may be cyanotic (blue), pale pink or grey.</li> </ul> <p>Cardiopulmonary arrest is referred to as the 3 min emergency, as brain damage may occur after this time due to hypoxia (lack of oxygen)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VETERINARY ADVICE TO BE SORT IMMEDIATELY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RESPIRATORY:</u></b> Presenting signs of an animal with respiratory distress are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Difficulty breathing.</li> <li>❖ Lack of oxygen.</li> <li>❖ Abnormal heart rate.</li> <li>❖ Collapse (blue) mucous membranes.</li> <li>❖ Increase in respiratory effort.</li> <li>❖ Respiratory arrest</li> </ul> <p>As a Dog handler you are limited with what you can perform due to lack of training &amp; experience.</p> <p><b><u>Treatment for respiratory distress:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Maintain an airway.</li> <li>❖ Try to keep the animal calm to reduce stress.</li> <li>❖ Monitor constantly.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VETERINARY ADVICE TO BE SORT IMMEDIATELY</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>CONTUSION:</u></b> Is caused by a blow with a blunt instrument, which will cause a rupture of blood vessels in the skin.</p> <p><b><u>Treatment:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cold compress should be applied immediately, as to minimise swelling usually within the first 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ABRASION:</u></b> Glancing blows or an RTA normally causes these wounds where the animal has been dragged along the ground.</p> <p><b><u>Treatment:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Control/Arrest Bleeding (Correct bandaging, direct digital pressure etc)</li> <li>❖ Treat the animal for shock (Keep warm, quiet, monitor vital signs)</li> <li>❖ Keep area clean to prevent infection (Clean with sterile water, use to minimum as to not stress the animal any further)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>LACERATION:</u></b> Causes include RTA, dogfights, tearing by barbed wire.</p> <p><b><u>INCISION:</u></b> Wounds caused by sharp cutting instruments, knives and broken glass.</p> <p><b><u>PUNCTURE:</u></b> Produced by blows from sharp pointed instruments, nails, stakes, thorns or fishhooks &amp; dog bites.</p> <p><b><u>AVULSION:</u></b> Occasionally occur most often after a dogfight.</p> <p><b>All these wounds may be minor or extensive.</b></p> <p><b><u>Treatment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Control any bleeding.</li> <li>❖ Treat for shock if necessary.</li> <li>❖ Clean wound/area with sterile water &amp; apply clean sterile dressing/bandage.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AS FOR ALL WOUNDS &amp; INJURIES SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE A.S.A.P.</u></b></p>

### IMMEDIATE ACTION DRILLS CONTINUED 3

#### **ABDOMEN:**

The abdomen should be examined externally for any swelling, bruising or penetrating foreign bodies and for signs of bloating. (To avoid any further damage **DO NOT** manipulate the abdomen. **DO NOT** attempt to remove foreign bodies)

#### **Treatment:**

- ❖ Keep the animal in a comfortable position & maintain an airway if possible.
- ❖ The animal is to be kept warm to minimise shock and stress.
- ❖ **DO NOT** give food or water (AS THE DOG MAY HAVE GASTRIC TORSION e.g. Twisted Gut)
- ❖ Take regular T. P. R.

#### **VETERINARY ADVICE TO BE SORT IMMEDIATELY**

#### **SPINAL PROBLEMS:**

The dog may show signs of back pain, difficulty walking, and limited movements.

#### **Treatment:**

- ❖ Comfort & warmth.
- ❖ Do not move the animal without you supporting him and keep movement to a minimum.
- ❖ Seek Veterinary Advice **A. S. A. P.**

#### **HEAD:**

The head and face should be examined for:

- ❖ Facial swelling or trauma.
- ❖ Any injuries to head, neck, skull, nose, eyes or ears.
- ❖ Epitaxis (nose bleeding)

#### **Treatment:**

- ❖ Control any bleeding.
- ❖ Apply a dressing if necessary.
- ❖ Comfort & Warmth.

#### **SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE A.S.A.P.**

#### **PELVIS:**

If you notice any signs of:

- ❖ Abnormal gait.
- ❖ Pain in the pelvis region.
- ❖ Abnormal signs in the anal region e.g. puncture wounds, discharge, and blood/mucous from the anus.

If a fractured pelvis or dislocation is suspected, confine the patient **DO NOT** attempt to move, keep the animal as comfortable as possible.

#### **VETERINARY ADVICE TO BE SORT IMMEDIATELY**

#### **LIMBS:**

Signs of fracture: Haemorrhage, swelling, pain, crepitus (grating of the bone) or loss of feeling.

- ❖ Control bleeding.
- ❖ Treat for shock.
- ❖ Keep animal warm, comfortable & surrounding area quiet (minimise stress).

All limbs should be the same temperature: A COLD LIMB MAY INDICATE LACK OF BLOOD SUPPLY.

#### **ARTERIES:**

Cardiovascular circulation is explained in the early ACRASHPLAN. Bleeding & Shock are the primary causes of death. Assessing the Mucous Membranes may indicate a number of problems.

#### MUCOUS MEMBRANE COLOUR 4

Description	Colour	Significance
	Pale Pink / Salmon	Normal
Congested	Brick Red	Toxins, Septicaemia, Heat Stroke, Smoke and Cardiac Disease
	Cherry Red	Carbon Monoxide
Pallor (Paleness of Skin)	Pale / White	Shock / Haemorrhage (Bleeding)
Cyanosed	Blue / Purple	Lack of Oxygen, Severe Dyspnoea (difficulty breathing) Cardiac Disease
Jaundiced	Yellow tinged	Acute Hepatic (Liver) Failure Haemolysis (Ruptured Blood Cells)

#### **NERVES:**

There are many caused of Seizures (Fits) some include Central Nervous System, Disease & Head Trauma, these are just a few.

#### **SIGNS:**

You may not witness the fit yourself but these signs may be noticed if your animal is suffering from seizures.

- ❖ Prior to a fit may become restless & more affectionate.
- ❖ The fit usually happens suddenly.
- ❖ The animal will collapse on its side and go into violent convulsions.
- ❖ Legs extended, head pulled back and neck extended.
- ❖ Involuntary champing of the jaws.
- ❖ Excessive salivation & foaming at the mouth.
- ❖ May last up to 10 minutes.

Following the fit the animal will be very restless, looking dazed and confused. The dog will recognise its owner soon after.

#### **Treatment:**

- ❖ If above signs are noticed prior to fit, contain the dog in a dark & quiet area.
- ❖ Once the seizure has commenced even if the dog is not contained in a dark quiet area leave well alone (**Do Not Panic**).
- ❖ Remain close to the dog to reassure him/her, you must be **very quiet** when doing this.
- ❖ **Do Not** touch until the seizure has subsided.
- ❖ The dog will require warmth, rest and fresh water.
- ❖ Monitor at all times and take a history of events.
- ❖ Time started, how long it lasted, physical signs prior to fit & signs after the fit,

The Veterinary Officer is to Contacted A. S. A. P.

## FIRST AID FOR WOUNDS & INJURIES 5

### **SHOCK:**

Shock is a condition of possible collapse and even death; an animal may go into shock after a trauma to it's self. Shock is defined as a loss of circulating fluids.

### **SIGNS:**

- ❖ Collapse.
- ❖ Decreased Awareness.
- ❖ Pale Mucous Membranes.
- ❖ Tachycardia (Abnormal heart rate).
- ❖ Weak peripheral pulse.
- ❖ Hypothermia (Low body temperature).
- ❖ Oliguria (Reduced Urine Output).

### **Treatment:**

- ❖ Keep animal warm.
  - ❖ Move to quiet & slightly darkened area with no disturbance.
  - ❖ Handler is to remain with the animal.
  - ❖ Monitor all vital signs with out causing undo stress.
  - ❖ Including demeanour / attitude.
  - ❖ Regular checks of Mucous Membranes.
  - ❖ Monitor urine output.
- Veterinary Advice to be sort immediately

### **TYPES OF SHOCK:**

Common causes of shock include:

- ❖ Hypovolaemic – low circulating blood volume.
- ❖ Haemorrhagic – whole blood loss.
- ❖ Traumatic – misdistribution of blood flow.
- ❖ Anaphylactic – severe allergic reaction.
- ❖ Cardiogenic – cardiac dysfunction.
- ❖ Toxic – infection leading to toxin build up.

### **BURNS:**

Burn is an injury caused by:

- ❖ Dry Heat (house fires, contact with hot surfaces etc).
- ❖ Excessive cold (frostbite).
- ❖ Corrosive chemicals (strong acid, petroleum chemicals).
- ❖ Electrical Current or Radiation.

A scald is an injury caused by moist heat (such as boiling water, tar or oil).

### **HEAT BURNS:**

- ❖ To be cooled immediately.

### **CHEMICAL BURNS:**

- ❖ Must be cleaned with a suitable substance.

### **SIGNS:**

- ❖ Redness and heat.
- ❖ Swelling.
- ❖ Pain.
- ❖ Loss of fur – Skin surface becomes leathery.

### **Treatment for Chemical Burns:**

- ❖ As above.
- ❖ Ensuring that no chemical is washed on to other parts of the body.
- ❖ Try and identify the chemical.

Veterinary Advice is to be sort immediately.

### **POISONING:**

Common causes of poisoning can range from Medicines, insecticides, disinfectants and explosives these are but a few.

### **SIGNS:**

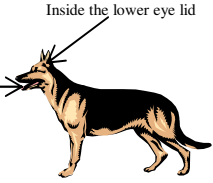
- ❖ Vomiting.
- ❖ Diarrhoea.
- ❖ Disorientation.
- ❖ Abnormal behaviour.
- ❖ Ataxia (muscular failure).
- ❖ Shock.
- ❖ Profuse salivation.
- ❖ Convulsions.
- ❖ Collapse.
- ❖ Unconsciousness.
- ❖ Death.

### **Treatment:**

DO NOT induce vomiting where a corrosive or caustic substance is suspected.  
DO NOT induce vomiting in an unconscious animal.

- ❖ Prevent further inhalation, absorption, and ingestion.
- ❖ Explosives poisoning are to be treated with the correct medication issued.
- ❖ Other poisons (NOT including caustic or corrosive) are to be treated with Salt & Water solution (one tablespoon of salt to 0.25 litres of water to induce vomiting).
- ❖ Inducing vomiting must be carried out immediately after the substance has been swallowed.

### FIRST AID CONTINUED 6

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Make a record of the time, substance &amp; treatment given.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Veterinary Advice to be sort immediately</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inside the mouth on the lips or gums</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mucous Membranes</u> Are checked at these sites</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inside the lower eye lid</p> 
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### HEAT EXHAUSTION

CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Working in excessive heat.</li> <li>❖ Exposed to the heat &amp; strong sun for long periods.</li> <li>❖ Being kennelled in a hot &amp; poorly ventilated area.</li> <li>❖ Dog being to overweight.</li> <li>❖ Lack of fresh water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Excessive panting.</li> <li>❖ Lethargy, no interest.</li> <li>❖ Unwillingness to move, and in extreme cases the dog will collapse.</li> <li>❖ Pyrexia (raise in body temperature).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Move to cool shaded area &amp; offer water.</li> <li>❖ Cold swab the dog, place an ice pack on the neck if possible, this will reduce the heat.</li> <li>❖ Give the dog plenty of rest &amp; do not work for 24hrs.</li> <li>❖ <u>Report the occurrence to the Veterinary Department.</u></li> </ul>

### CONSTIPATION

CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Unbalanced diet.</li> <li>❖ Lack of water.</li> <li>❖ Lack of exercise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Dog does not pass motions for long periods or passes hard motions.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Seek Veterinary advice</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Increase exercise.</li> <li>❖ Ensure constant water supply</li> <li>❖ If the diet is considered to be cause, seek veterinary authority to change the diet accordingly.</li> </ul>

### FIRST AID CONTINUED 7

<b>NAIL / PAD INJURIES</b>		
Dog's nails and pads are very strong but are susceptible to injury during normal work. To aid the prevention of this, it is advised that you check your dog's pads for any damage frequently.		
CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The main causes of this are dogs working or running in areas with unsuitable flooring.</li> <li>❖ Lacerations due to broken glass &amp; barbed wire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bleeding.</li> <li>❖ Pain.</li> <li>❖ Swelling &amp; Lameness.</li> <li>❖ Possibly reluctance to work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ If the dog allows clean the area with sterile water and dry thoroughly.</li> <li>❖ Apply a sterile dressing pad and bandage the affected area.</li> <li>❖ Do not work the dog until a Vet has seen him.</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">(It is advised not to apply cotton wool directly to the area as this will stick &amp; can be very painful to remove).</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><u>Inform the Veterinary Department A.S.A.P.</u></p>

<b>DIARRHOEA / LOOSE MOTIONS</b>		
CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Change in diet / contaminated food.</li> <li>❖ Long journeys / environmental changes.</li> <li>❖ Chills, climatic changes.</li> <li>❖ Worms.</li> <li>❖ Stress.</li> <li>❖ Onset of disease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Motions passed by the dog in a liquid form followed by unproductive straining.</li> <li>❖ Loose motions are soft and of normal colour, whereas diarrhoea is liquid, vary in colour and in some cases contains bloody mucus.</li> <li>❖ A dog with diarrhoea will show other symptoms of disease (e.g. high temperature, change in behaviour).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Starve for one day. On the second day offer half of normal feed. If diarrhoea persists, obtain Veterinary advice. If the dog passes any blood, shows signs of fever or loses its appetite, obtain Veterinary advice straight away.</li> </ul>

### FIRST AID CONTINUED 8

VOMITING		
CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rapid eating.</li> <li>❖ Change in diet.</li> <li>❖ Travelling on a full stomach.</li> <li>❖ Irritants (e.g. grass/hair)</li> <li>❖ Poison.</li> <li>❖ Infection.</li> <li>❖ Excitement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ejection of food or bile from the stomach through the mouth. If no material is expelled, but the dog carries out the same motions, this is called retching, another symptom is salivation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Dogs can vomit at will, so treatment of a single episode may be unnecessary. If repeated or accompanied by other conditions (e.g. diarrhoea or fever)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Seek veterinary advice immediately.</u></b></p>

COUGH		
CAUSES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Infection.</li> <li>❖ Irritation by collar when pulled on.</li> <li>❖ Chain point.</li> <li>❖ Checked with a leash.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cough is dry and harsh and may end in a 'gagging' action. Several dogs may develop a cough together if it's infectious.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Take dog's temperature and obtain Veterinary advice. If not, try to reduce the cough, by removing the cause i.e. not putting dog on chain point.</li> </ul>